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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Al Kut Votech gets \$1.6 million upgrade

By Norris Jones
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AL KUT, Iraq – “Our job training capabilities have been greatly expanded,” said Al Kut Vocational Technical Center’s headmistress, Eman Hamza Mahamood, during a ribbon cutting ceremony June 17 marking the completion of a \$1.6 million upgrade here.

“This offers residents throughout Wasit Province a state-of-the-art facility to learn marketable skills,” she added.

That project included a new 18x30-meter auto mechanics building, a new 18x20-meter warehouse, and a new 18x25-meter carpentry-masonry workshop/outdoor lab, along with repair of water and sewer lines, a fire suppression system and painting of the main building’s interior and exterior under a \$788,852 contract overseen by the Gulf Region South District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

In addition, the 358th Civil Affairs Brigade funded \$898,729 for new equipment for the classrooms. Those items included Pentium 4 computers and monitors, projectors, masonry tools, circular saws, electric drills, welding equipment, surveyor’s instruments, concrete mixer, grinders, compressors, welders, auto mechanic equipment, air conditioning repair equipment, sewing machines, painting and carpentry tools, chairs and desks, and a variety of supplies (nails, paint, sandpaper, welding rods, etc.)

“When the construction started last October we had 30 students attending



Hamed Al Safee, Al Kut textile factory general manager, was invited to cut the ribbon June 17 marking the completion of a major expansion project at the Al Kut Vocational Technical Center. Others attending the ceremony included Wasit Governor Lateef Hammed Turfaa, Mehsin Ali Mohammed from the Society of Insurance and Care, Hazim Yassen from the Wasit Investment Commission, Munther Numan with the Iraq American Chamber of Commerce, Munadhil Jasim Hasan (Deputy of the Youth and Sports Directorate), and Wasit Provincial Reconstruction Team Leader Robert Kagler. [USACE Photo]



Wasit Gov. Lateef Hammed Turfaa talks with students at Al Kut Vocational Technical Center and encourages them to keep working hard in their classes. [USACE Photo]

classes, currently we have 260 students enrolled, and next year we forecast that 360 students will be involved," said Engineer Eman, who has been the facility's senior administrator for eight years. The Al Kut Votech offers classes in auto mechanics, computer repair, welding, carpentry, air conditioning, electrical, computer programming, sewing and carpentry.

Wasit Gov. Lateef Hammed Turfaa said he was very pleased with the construction quality and recognized the school's faculty, the Wasit Provincial Reconstruction Team, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for working together so that unemployed residents throughout the Province now "have such an excellent job training facility."

Robert Kagler, Wasit PRT team leader, told the group, "Over the next few months, we hope to see the classrooms filled to capacity with students interested in rebuilding their new Iraq."



Eman Hamza Mahamood, headmistress of the Al Kut Vocational Technical Center, signs the close-out documents June 17 marking the completion of a \$788,852 renovation and expansion of that facility. [USACE Photo]



Al Kut Vocational Technical Center's main building. [USACE Photo]



Al Kut Vocational Technical Center's new 18x30-meter auto mechanics workshop. [USACE Photo]

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